

Federal City Performing Arts Association

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 26, 1997
2801 M St, NW, Washington, DC

DIRECTORS: Present: Fred Boykin, Jim Coyne, Bill Eadie, Jack Gerard, Thom Gibb, Darrell Lewis, Jim Madigan, Jeff Peirce, John Perkins, Henry Salevsky, Joe Vignali, Bob Wheeler, Robert York.

Absent: None

STAFF: Jim Holloway, Nathan Monell

GUESTS: Rich Aldret, Gary Regan.

I. Call to Order

Meeting Called to Order at 7:34 pm by Boykin.

II. Approval of Minutes

Coyne moved, Lewis seconded, to approve the February 26, 1997 Minutes.
10 in favor, 1 abstention. Minutes approved.

Peirce moved, Gibb seconded, to approve the Minutes of the March 5, 1997 special meeting.
Unanimous in favor. Minutes approved.

III. Financial Report

Peirce distributed the March financial report and the February 28, 1997 Comparative Statements of Income and Balance Sheet. Our year to date revenues are behind budget by \$38,000. However, the budget anticipated transferring \$26,700 from savings by this point which, due to healthy cash flows, we've not had to do. Discounting that amount, we are still behind budget by \$11,000, with shortfalls in the areas of ticket sales and grants. But our YTD revenues are ahead of last year by \$44,000 due to strong performance in the areas of advertising, fundraising, compact disc sales and the Capital Club. This is a 28% increase in revenues over last year. YTD expenditures exceed last year's by almost \$35,000, but are across the board below budget by a total of more than \$21,000. We are operating on a fairly steady course, but YTD expenditures still exceed revenues by almost \$16,000.

Vignali moved, Coyne seconded, to accept the financial report.
Unanimous in favor. Report accepted.

- ▼ Monell reported that a draft FY 1996 audit had finally been received from Kyle & Company, and that a final copy should be forthcoming within a week. The prospect of our having to resort to formal legal action to obtain the audit we paid for last summer has diminished.

- ▼ Peirce called for all FY 1998 budget preparation materials. The remaining schedule and process leading to the Saturday, May 3 special Board budget meeting were reviewed.

IV. President's Report

Boykin observed that the Board has two more formal meetings before the end of its term. He took the opportunity to tell everyone how much he appreciated what they have done for this organization, especially the new and special projects individuals have assumed and fit into their schedules. We've had a lot of changes and some surprises this year, but the organization and this Board continue to move forward. We continue to do things that one would not have dreamed of our doing 16 years ago. So many of us are thinking about the future and this we need to better convey to the chorus. We have grown, become more professional, and are no longer the chorus we once were. This fact bothers some people. We may not be the close-knit family we once were, but we are still family. We have nay-sayers, and they must be listened to seriously. But the overwhelming number of members are in favor of us moving forward and continuing to grow. We have a lot to be proud of now in this organization and we have a lot of challenges ahead. We must have faith in our visions and accept taking risks; that is the only way we will move forward. Board members' comments, criticisms and concerns are appreciated. Boykin thanked the Executive Committee for their diverse way of thinking and perspectives that are brought to addressing the business of the chorus. Monell was thanked for his vision for the organization and the confidence he had in our implementing it; he will be missed, but we look forward to working with him in new capacities.

V. Executive Director's Report

Monell distributed a detailed written report. He noted that he had volunteered to coordinate the Proud & Peaceful CD project as a volunteer, and that the Executive Committee had authorized him to do so. Current Executive Director projects were listed with notations of how they were being "transitioned," or who was assuming their responsibility. A summary of the financial position of GMCW was offered as well as an over-view of the Executive Director position and the process for hiring his successor. In conclusion, he presented an overview of accomplishments and thanked Board members for their help in his efforts.

VI. Music Director's Report

- ▼ Holloway expressed special thanks to Vignali and the production crew for their invaluable service, particularly for recent the Cedar Lane concert. These outreach concerts are very important for community bridge building. They are how we diversify our audience.
- ▼ Final production meetings and planning are now occurring for the April concert. Costs for the instrumentalist will exceed budget, but we expect to make it up in other areas.
- ▼ Conversations with Indianapolis Men's Chorus director Michael Hayden continue regarding the Summer concert. Boykin and Holloway will visit Indianapolis in May; Holloway will conduct an all-day rehearsal on the 17th. Hayden will also rehearse GMCW in DC in May. Gibb has been our intermediary in arranging *NakedMan* composer Robert Seeley's May 4 visit with GMCW. Besides performing the piece, the process of getting it to the stage is going to be the important experience.

- ▼ The Chamber Choir will perform *Hidden Legacies* with the New Jersey Gay Men's Chorus in Princeton on June 7. They are also offering a local performance to Whitman-Walker Clinic as a benefit.
- ▼ A request has been received from the Cathedral Choral Society for members of GMCW to perform jointly with members of the Choral Society at Washington Cathedral on Tuesday, July 15. This is part of their community outreach that has usually crossed racial lines, but this year they are reaching out to the gay community. Holloway recommended we accept this on the basis of a voluntary, sign-up event, anticipating that between 50 and 65 people would participate from GMCW with perhaps one rehearsal.

Coyne moved, Vignali seconded, to accept the request to perform with the Cathedral Choral Society at Washington Cathedral on July 15, 1997.

Unanimous in favor. Motion passed.

- ▼ We have also received a request from the Kennedy Center to perform at their Millennium Stage series of free concerts on Saturday, May 31 at 6:00 p.m. This would be a committed performance for the membership. We are offered a \$500 honorarium. The engagement offers us strong community outreach, audience diversification, and public relations benefits.

Vignali moved, Gibb seconded, to accept the request to perform at the Kennedy Center on May 31, 1997.

Unanimous in favor. Motion passed.

- ▼ Board members were urged to attend the GALA Leadership Conference in Toronto over next Labor Day weekend. As a new initiative, there is also being offered a concurrent Singer's Conference. Members were reminded that they should not only exercise their leadership in the Board and the chorus, but also within the network.
- ▼ Holloway acknowledged how much of a pleasure it has been to work this past year, feeling free to concentrate on musical issues with the confidence that other things were being handled, growing and thriving. To that he credited Nathan, Fred and the Executive Committee. He also offered special thanks to Vignali, Gary Turner and Salevsky, and observed that we all will make an extraordinary effort from time to time. How can we be such that those efforts create the reality that is ongoing, called the extraordinary chorus? He's living in that question, and if we are here, we are too. His request is that we keep this question in front of us in whatever we're doing: Is this an expression of the extraordinary chorus?

VII. Operations Committee Report

- ▼ Monell presented the written report from the Operations Committee's first meeting on March 5. The following were determined as reasons to meet on a regular basis: 1) to allow the Board to continue to move its focus to policy and governance issues, 2) to share information with each other so we know what each team is doing and so that we can reduce the amount of misinformation that is communicated, 3) to identify and discuss operational-level concerns that are effecting each of us, and 4) to share the authority of running the day-to-day operations of the chorus so that major operational decisions that used to be monitored by the Board are monitored by the team leaders.

- ▼ Two issues were identified for immediate attention by the committee: 1) management or coordination of the concert program book, and 2) centralizing and managing our database and mailing lists.
- ▼ It was decided to hold meetings of the committee the first Wednesday of each month; the next meeting is scheduled for April 2 with the Acting Executive Director continuing to serve as convener. Because one of the primary benefits of the committee is communication, chorus members should be encouraged to attend these meeting if they wish to. But these meeting need not be mandatory for committee chairs at this time as some may not find them helpful to their particular function.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

Perkins moved, Peirce seconded, to appoint the following individuals to serve with the Board Secretary on the Nominations and Elections Committee to conduct the June 1997 elections in accordance with the FCPAA By-laws: Bob Wonneberger, Jim Lopresti, and David Robinson.

X. Adjournment

Coyne moved, Vignali seconded, to adjourn the meeting.
Unanimous in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



John E. Perkins
Secretary
FCPAA

Attachments for the Record:

March Finance Committee Report
Executive Director's Report, March 12, 1997
Operations Committee Report, March 5, 1997